

raliter crenato-striatis.—Length  $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of an inch; breadth  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch. Pl. IX. fig. 3.

Exactly resembling a *Fusus corneus* in miniature, but evidently a full-grown shell, and well-characterized by its peculiar sculpture. No described species of *Fusus* can be confounded with it. We dredged it in fifty fathoms between Fair Isle and Fitful Head. On showing the specimen to Mr. Jeffreys, he recognized it as the *F. albus* of his manuscripts\*.

6. *Astarte crebricostata*, sp. nov. Pl. IX. fig. 4.

We have applied this name provisionally to a remarkable *Astarte* of which several single valves, not very fresh, were dredged up on the west coast of Zetland. They evidently belong to a species very distinct from any European form with which we are acquainted. These valves are ovate, oblique, very depressed, with numerous (thirty), very prominent, narrow, elevated, regular, transverse ridges which become obsolete anteriorly, where they are interspersed by slightly oblique striæ. The margin is crenate. The largest valve measures 1 inch  $\frac{2}{10}$ ths in length and the same across.

7. *Astarte borealis*.

We dredged in fifty fathoms water on the Ling Bank off the west coast of Zetland a valve of this well-known species, so fresh that we cannot doubt that it is a living inhabitant of our northern seas.

[To be continued.]

XIII.—DRAFTS FOR A FAUNA INDICA. By ED. BLYTH,  
Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, &c. &c.†

[Continued from p. 53.]

Subfam. GOURINÆ, *Ground Pigeons.*

THE great series of ground pigeons and ground doves presents a marked gradation in form and character from genera allied (excepting in the form of the feet) to the *Carpophaga* and *Ptilinopodes* of the preceding subfamily, to others which exhibit a nearer relationship to the species of the next subfamily. The size also varies remarkably, as both the largest and smallest pigeons known are comprised in this group; some attaining the magnitude of a hen-turkey, while others are scarcely bigger than a sparrow. These birds are of a shorter, more full, and grouse-like figure than that of other pigeons, having the wings more or

\* Lieut. Thomas, R.N., has lately dredged it near the Orkneys.

† From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, no. 169.

less rounded, and even bowed or hollowed in some instances; the tarsi comparatively elongated, and the toes long and adapted for ground habits. Some even much resemble partridges in their mode of life; but even these, for the most part, prefer the cover of low brush-wood (as do also many partridges), the haunts of different species varying; and other genera are completely sylvan in their abode, feeding on the ground, more especially on fallen fruits and berries. Such are the magnificent Gouras, or great crowned pigeons (*Goura coronata* and *G. Stourisii*) of the Moluccas and New Guinea, which in their plumage and colouring approximate *Treron cantillans* and *Carpophaga insignis*; and the elegant hackled ground pigeons (*Calenas*), one of which (*C. nicobaricus*) abounds in the forests of the Malay peninsula, and in the Nicobar, Andaman and Cocos isles, thus almost verging on the eastern boundary of the territory whose fauna we here treat of. The general resemblance of this bird to *Ptilinopus* is striking in the living specimens of both; and from what I have observed of it in confinement, I have great reason to doubt the current statement that it ever lays more than two eggs, the number so usual in the pigeon family: indeed I think there is present reason to be sceptical of the statements that any pigeon lays more than that number; though it is certain that several of the *Gourinae* are clad with down at an early age, and follow their parents soon after they are hatched. The only Indian species is among the least characteristic of the tribe, so much so, that it requires some knowledge of its various Australian affines to comprehend its classification in the present group. It ranks under

CHALCOPHAPS, Gould (apparently a sylvan subgenus of *Phaps*, Selby, exemplified by the common Bronze-wing of Australia).

CH. INDICA: *Columba indica*, Linn.: *C. pileata*, Scopoli: *C. javanica* (?), *cya-nocephala* et *albicapilla*, Gmelin: *C. cyanopileata* et *griseocapilla*, Bonnaterre: *C. superciliaris*, Wagler. (*Rám-G'hoogoo* and *R'háj-G'hoogoo*, Bengal; *Gyo-nyyo*, Arracan.) Back and wings emerald-green, glossed with aureous; the feathers distinct and scale-like; neck, breast and under-parts vinaceous-brown, paler below, and of a duller hue in the female; two broad dusky bars alternating with grayish-white on the rump; tail dusky in the male, its outermost and penultimate feathers whitish-gray, with black subterminal band; primaries dusky; forehead of the male white, passing as a supercilium over the eye; the crown of the head ash-gray; a white bar near the angle of the wing; and lower tail-coverts ashy, the longest brown-black; inside of the wings reddish cinnamon-brown. The female has a grayish-white forehead much less developed than in the other sex, and a narrow whitish supercilium; crown of the head rufescent; no white bar at the shoulder of the wing; the tail

tinged with ferruginous; and the neck and under-parts are browner than in the male. Irides dark; bare skin around the eyes deep purplish-carneous, as are also the legs; and the beak is bright coral-red, except towards the nostrils, where somewhat dusky. Length  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ; and of wing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ .

This beautiful ground-dove is common in thick jungly situations, and especially among dense bamboos throughout the country; and it is equally abundant in the Malayan Archipelago. A writer before-cited remarks,—“The rapidity of flight it exhibits exceeds that of any bird I am acquainted with, except perhaps the brief decisive swoop of some of the smaller *Falconidæ*: as in the progress of the latter there is no apparent motion of the wings, but gliding along a few feet from the ground, diverging or rising just sufficiently to clear intervening obstacles, the ground-dove skims with an arrow-like swiftness, and is come and gone in an instant, scarcely giving the eye time to detect what has crossed the field of vision. When settled on the ground, however, it shows no unusual degree of fear, and may be approached near enough to notice its motions and brilliancy of colouring. Bare spots about the roots of large trees, particularly of the tamarind, appear to be favourite resorts; and a pair will be occasionally found sunning themselves, arranging their plumage and scraping up the earth, and beating up the dust with expanded wings, after the manner of the *Rasores* upon an old *b'heetah*—the artificially raised mound of a deserted village. They soon become reconciled to confinement; and the voice is plaintive and monotonous like an oft-repeated low tone on a distant flute\*.” The nest of this species I have never seen, but am informed that it is built in low thorny trees and often in bamboo jungle: the eggs are two in number; and one taken from the oviduct (April 30th) measures just an inch long by three-quarters of an inch across, and is of a less pure white than those of ordinary pigeons and doves†.

There is a nearly allied species in Australia, the *Col. chrysochlora*, Wagler, which Mr. G. R. Gray conceives to be the true *Col. javanica* of Gmelin. One character by which it may always be readily distinguished, is the total absence of white on the fore-

\* “*Columbidæ* of the Eastern Districts.”—Bengal Sporting Review, No. 4, 1845.

† *Chalcophaps indicus* is common in the deep forests, always in the vicinity of streams, and generally upon the ground in the shelter of beds of reeds and rank grass. When flushed it takes a short but exceedingly rapid flight, alighting as abruptly with a sudden plunge into the herbage, so that it is a most difficult bird to shoot. Its favourite food consists of the seeds of the castor-oil plant.—T.

head of both sexes\*. The rapidity of flight so remarkable in the Indian species, as compared with our other *Columbidæ*, is equally observable in other subgenera of *Phaps*, which might include even *Peristera* of Swainson †.

#### Subfam. COLUMBINÆ.

This consists of the ordinary pigeons and doves, the characters and habits of which are familiar to all. They are mostly arboreal, though many of them feed much on the ground, chiefly on grain and oleaginous seeds; some of the species also nipping the young sprouts of vegetables. They fall into two principal and nearly allied series, those of the pigeons and the doves; the latter subdividing into several well-marked groups.

Genus COLUMBA, Linn. (as restricted). PIGEONS. (*Kubbooter*, H.; *Paira*, B.)

These are of comparatively large size, and generally more robust in make, with square or subquadrate tail. The Indian species fall into two subgenera, viz. rock pigeons and wood pigeons; the former exemplified by the common house pigeon, the latter by the common Cushat of Europe.

ROCK PIGEONS. In these the tarse is rather longer, and the toes are better adapted for walking on the ground. They rarely, if ever, perch on trees, except under peculiar circumstances, as when a dove-cot of domestic pigeons is placed near a tree, with large and conveniently shaped boughs, in which case the pigeons will commonly resort to the latter to sit and roost, but never to form their nests. In the wild state it is probable that they never perch at all, retiring to roost and nestle in caverns and small hollows of rocks or sea-cliffs, in the absence of which they select buildings that offer suitable recesses, breeding in the capi-

\* It is I think very doubtful whether *C. chrysochlora* be really distinct from *indica*. The absence of white on the forehead is probably due to the specimens being immature.—H. E. S.

† A curious pigeon, in the guise of a *Pterocles*, is figured among the drawings prepared under the superintendence of the late Sir Alexander Burnes and Dr. Lord, marked *Fahktuk* (i. e. *Facktah* or dove, *Hind.*) from Cabul, which should be sought for in the Scindian deserts. Total length about a foot, the wing  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and tail pointed and *Pterocles*-like, extending nearly 2 inches beyond the tips of the wings; tarsi and toes, which, though rudely drawn, would appear to be those of an ordinary pigeon, naked and of a pink colour. Bill dusky, being also apparently that of an ordinary pigeon, and rather slender. General colour light isabelline, with darker margins to the feathers of the mantle and wings; neck, breast and underparts plain, the breast rufescent, and the belly and lower tail-coverts whitish; the outer tail-feathers would appear to have black tips; irides crimson. Should this hereafter be verified and constitute (as seems probable) a new genus of *sand-doves*, having the habits of the Gangas or Sand-grouse, it might bear the name *Psammaenas Burnesii*.

tals of pillars and whatever other convenient nooks they find. Hence, when unmolested, these house pigeons soon become familiarized with man, and require little encouragement to merge into the domestic condition.

C. INTERMEDIA, Strickland, Ann. and Mag. N. H. 1844, p. 39: *C. ænas* of India, *auctorum*: *C. ænas*, var., from Tartary, Wagler. (*Jalalaya*, H.; *Parwa*, Mahr.; *Golah* of the pigeon dealers.) (INDIAN ROCK PIGEON.) The common wild blue pigeon of India is most closely allied to the European *C. livia*, but is of rather a deeper slaty-gray, with invariably a deep ash-coloured rump; whereas *C. livia* has as constantly a pure white rump: there appears to be no other distinction between them, unless it be that the play of colours on the neck is finer in the Indian bird. The same difference in the colour of the rump is observable in the domestic pigeons of the two countries, whenever these tend to assume the normal colouring; for the tame Indian pigeons are as clearly derived from the wild *C. intermedia* as those of Europe are from *C. livia*.

Colour slaty-gray, darker on the head, breast, upper and lower tail-coverts and tail, which last has a blackish terminal band not well-defined; nuchal feathers divergent at their tips, and brightly glossed with changeable green and reddish-purple; two black bars on the wing\*; the primaries tinged with brownish, and the outer-

\* In some specimens, particularly among the semi-domestic, slight dusky streaks occur on the shafts of the lesser wing-coverts, which, in the latter, are often much more developed, spreading across the feathers and spotting the whole wing; such birds much resembling (except in the rump not being white) a race of wild pigeons that are abundantly brought at times to the London markets—all of them shot birds; but the latter have not, in addition, the two black bands on the wing well-defined, as seems to be regularly the case with this variety of *C. intermedia*. Moreover, in the English bird, the spotting of the lesser wing-coverts does not occur on the shafts of the feathers, but partly margins each web, excepting near the edge of the wing, where the feathers are unspotted. I suspect that the wild rock pigeons of the south of England are mostly of the kind alluded to, which may be designated *C. affinis*; while those of North Britain, and it would seem of Europe generally, are true *C. livia*.

Here, again, we have three closely-allied species, analogous to the three yellow-footed Hurrials, *Treron viridifrons*, *Tr. phænicoptera*, and *Tr. chlorigaster*; and if they are to be regarded as mere varieties of the same, what limits can be assigned to the further variation of wild species? *Col. leucnota* is but a step more removed, and I doubt not would equally merge and blend with the others in a state of domesticity. Equally allied are—*Treron sphenura* and *Tr. cantillans*; *Tr. apicauda* and *Tr. oxyura*; and if we grant also some variation of size, we have *Tr. bicincta* and *Tr. vernans*; *Tr. malabarica* and *Tr. chloroptera*; *Turtur chinensis* and *T. suratensis*; *T. meena* and *T. auritus*, &c. &c., which might be regarded as local varieties of the same, and we might thus go on reducing species *ad infinitum* with no useful definite result, but to the utter confusion of all discriminative classification. However closely races may resemble, if they present absolute and constant

most tail-feather having its external web gradually more albescent to the base. Irides brownish-orange, the lids bluish-white; bill black, with a white mealiness at the tumid base of its upper mandible; and legs reddish-pink. Length 13 by 23 inches; of wing  $8\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Mr. Jerdon rightly remarks—"The blue pigeon abounds all over India, being occasionally found in the more open spaces of jungles, especially in rocky districts and in the neighbourhood of water-falls; but more generally in the open country, inhabiting walls of villages, pagodas, wells, and any large buildings, and breeding chiefly in old walls." Another observer, writing of it in the eastern districts of Bengal, remarks: "Large colonies of these birds inhabit every moogur, mhut\*, and mass of ruins in the country, where, in company with the (house) mynah and (rose-ringed) parroquet, they multiply to a vast extent; and the more so, as being held in religious veneration by some, and in special favour by all natives, their destruction is prevented wherever there exists the power. They are so devoid of timidity, that even in the midst of crowded cities, they will build on the cornices in the open verandahs of inhabited houses. When this takes place in the dwelling of a native, their tenure is secure; as their making such selection is looked upon as a happy omen, and their dismissal as the sure forerunner of evil fortune. Pairs frequently take up their quarters among the domestic pigeons of the dove-cot; indeed it is not an easy matter to prevent their doing so, and intermingling the breed. In the cold weather they flock and frequent the paddy-stubble in large numbers†." Capt. Hutton informs me that this bird "is found in Affghanistan, where, as in many parts of India, it builds in wells and ruined buildings: the *kazeezes*, or Artesian wells of Affghanistan, are sometimes crowded with them. They occur also in the Doon, and are known as the common blue pigeon. At Mussoorie, I have only seen them in the cultivated fields, low down on the sides of hills, in warm situations‡."

Being the original stock of the domestic pigeons of India, some notice of the latter should here be introduced. I have not, however, paid much attention to the several varieties; the more choice

differences, whether of size, proportions or colouring, and if they manifest no tendency to grade from one to the other, except in cases of obvious intermixture, we are justified in considering them as distinct and separate; and more especially if each, or either, has a wide range of geographic distribution, without exhibiting any climatal or local variation.

\* Rude Hindoo temple.

† India Sporting Review, No. 4, 121.

‡ *Columba intermedia* is exceedingly common in Chota Nagpore, breeding in all the steep lofty rocks of that country.—T.

of which are, besides, kept chiefly by the Moguls in the Upper Provinces, and it is there that observations should be recorded of them. A chapter is devoted to the rearing of pigeons in the *Ayeen Akbaree*, and a number of breeds or races enumerated; but nothing definite can be understood of their distinguishing characters. The different kinds are chiefly esteemed for performing sundry aerial evolutions, and returning at once from any height at an accustomed signal. But to quote the work cited: "There are also many other beautiful pigeons, which, although they neither wheel nor tumble in the air, yet perform many pleasing tricks; amongst these are the following:—The *Kowkh*, which seems to say the words *yak-roo*. The *Luckeh* [*fantail*], whose cooing is very agreeable, and he carries his head with astonishing pride and stateliness. The *Lowntun*, who upon being shaken, and then put upon the ground, jumps about with strange convulsive motions." [This may be seen at any of the Calcutta bird-dealers; shaken two or three times in the hand, and the head more especially, the poor bird tumbles about in a fit for some seconds, when the owner recovers it by blowing hard in its face. They are chiefly black and white and bare-legged, with a crested occiput, but present no other marked distinction.] "The *Kehrnee*, who has such amazing affection for his hen, that when he has flown out of [human] sight, if she is exposed in a cage, he instantly drops down upon it: they descend either with both wings spread, or with one open, or else with both shut. The *Rukteh* is a pigeon famous for carrying letters; but any pigeon may be taught to do this. The *Neshwaree* ascends in the air till he is out of sight, and remains so [*i. e.* absent?] for a day or two, after which he alights on the ground. There are also many other kinds that are valuable only on account of their beauty, such as the *Sherazee*\*, the *Shushtree*, the *Shashenu*, the *Jougeeah*, the *Rezehdehn*, the *Muggessee*, the *Komeree*, and the *Gowlah*; the last [or *intermedia* in its natural state] is a wild pigeon, of which, if a few are taken, they are speedily joined by a thousand others of their kind. There are people who obtain a livelihood by sending these pigeons to feed abroad, and making them vomit up the grain, by giving them water strongly impregnated with salt. A pigeon is said to live to the age of thirty years." Among the kinds commonly bred about Calcutta are fine *Powters* (*Gulla-p'hoola*†), both feather-legged and bare-legged; *Fantails* (*Luckah*) of indisputable merit, but poor helpless monstrosities, except in the eyes of connoisseurs, some of

\* *Sarajoo*, Beng. A large black pigeon, with white rump, quills and under-parts from the throat; generally very true to this colouring.

† 'Swollen throat,' or, literally, *full gullet* (*gula*).

which have at least thirty-six tail-feathers\*, and races with an occipital top-knot (*Nuns*), are common ; but I have seen nothing like the variety commonly bred by English *fanciers*, and the races generally are less pure (at least in Lower Bengal), with their peculiarities not so strongly brought out ; unless in the instance of the *fantails*, and sometimes *powters*, which are as preposterous caricatures of the wild race, as the most extravagant admirer of Nature's freaks of the kind could reasonably desire, and as undeniably curious in showing what domestication can produce.

*C. LEUCONOTA*, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1831, p. 22 ; Gould's Century, pl. 59. (HOODED ROCK PIGEON.) Size and form of last, the wings a trifle longer : cap, comprising the throat and ear-coverts, ashy-black ; neck, rump (as in *C. livia*) and the entire under-parts white, with a faint shade of ashy, except on the rump, deepest on the lower tail-coverts ; interscapularies, scapularies and wings light brownish-gray, purer pale ashy on the medial coverts of the wings ; the primaries dull blackish towards their tips, the secondaries broadly tipped with dusky, and the tertiaries and their coverts having a subterminal dusky band and broad grayish tips, producing a series of three short bars, successively smaller to the front, and a trace of a small fourth band anteriorly ; tail and its upper coverts ashy-black, the former having a broad grayish-white bar, occupying the third quarter from the base of its middle feathers, and narrowing and curving forward to reach the tip of its outermost feathers. Bill black, legs pinkish-red, and irides yellow. Common on the rocky heights of the Himalaya, inhabiting near the snow line.

According to Capt. Hutton, there are two races, if not species, confounded under *C. leuconota*, viz. the true *leuconota*, as figured by Gould, with the white of the *hind-neck* spreading a considerable way down the back, and which (he informs me) is found only "far in the mountains ;" and another, of which the description wholly corresponds with the Nepal and Darjeeling specimens which have served for the above description, and which Captain Hutton states "inhabits the Doon all the year, but is there called 'Hill Pigeon,' while the other is known to collectors as the 'Snow Pigeon.' The Doon bird flies in small flocks during summer from the hills to the Doon in the morning, and returns to the hills in the evening." If there be really any difference, however, between the birds adverted to, I suspect it must be merely one of age.

Subgenus *PALUMBUS*, Kaup. WOOD PIGEONS OR CUSHATS. These have feet well adapted for perching, and a shorter tarse than in the preceding section, which also is more feathered

\* While drawing up this notice, I visited the bird bazaar, and counted thirty-four feathers in a tail which was obviously imperfect.



towards the knee. They nidificate and habitually perch on trees\*.

*C. PALUMBUS*, Linn. (EUROPEAN WOOD PIGEON.) Upper parts brownish-gray, the head, cheeks, throat, rump and upper tail-coverts pure ashy, paler on the lower tail-coverts; fore-neck and breast vinaceous-ruddy, weaker on the belly, and albescent towards the vent; nape and sides of the neck and shoulders glossed with changeable green and reddish-purple, the former predominating above, the latter below; and upon each side of the neck a great patch of subdued white, in general largely developed, very rarely reduced to a mere trace; coverts forming the edge of the wing and impending the winglet white, as is also the exterior margin of each primary; tail gray at base, becoming blackish at its tip. Bill orange, with a white mealiness at the tumid base of its upper mandible; feet red, and irides light yellow. Length 17 by 30 inches, and wing  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

This well-known European species inhabits the north-western Himalaya, as about Simla, and in the Alpine Punjab.

*C. (?) ELPHINSTONII*: *Ptilinopus Elphinstonii*, Sykes, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 149: a *Carpophaga*, apud G. R. Gray. (NEILGHERRY WOOD PIGEON.) "Upper parts fuscous-brown, the head, neck and lower parts ashy; nape black, the feathers marked with a white spot at tip; interscapularies ruddy; neck and breast glossed with emerald-green, the rump with ashy; first, second, third, fourth and fifth primaries having their outer web emarginated. Irides ochre-yellow." Length 15 or 16 inches.

I have had no opportunity of examining this fine species, but from the above description of its plumage, translated from Colonel Sykes's brief Latin definition, I cannot help doubting exceedingly the propriety of arranging it as a *Carpophaga*, and as strongly suspect that the present is its true systematic station†. Colonel Sykes describes it to be "a rare bird in the Dukhun, met with only in the dense woods of the ghauts. Not gregarious. Stony fruit found in the stomach. Sexes alike. Flight very rapid. The lateral skin of its toes is very much developed." Mr. Jerdon has only noticed it "in the dense woods on the summit of the Neilgherries, in small parties, or single. It is a retired and wary bird. I found various fruits," he adds, "and small shells in its stomach."

*C. PULCHRICOLLIS*, Hodgson (mentioned in Mr. G. R. Gray's

\* It should be remarked, that the European *C. anas* is completely intermediate to these two groups in its form, colouring, habits and nidification; breeding sometimes in the cavities of trees, sometimes in rabbit-burrows.

† Mr. Blyth is right in this surmise; *C. Elphinstonii* being a true *Colomba*, not a *Carpophaga*. The lateral skin of the toes is not more developed than in *C. palumbus*.—H. E. S.

Catalogue of the specimens of *Columbidæ* in the British Museum). (ASHY WOOD PIGEON.) Considerably smaller than the two preceding species; and general colour dusky-gray, much paler and faintly tinged with lake below, more or less whitish towards the vent, and subdued white on the lower tail-coverts; tail blackish; head, cheeks and ear-coverts pure light ashy, passing to whitish on the throat; the sides of the neck and breast brightly glossed with the usual changeable green and reddish-purple, the former predominating; and above this the feathers are somewhat rigid and black at base, with broad isabelline tips whitish at the end, forming a large patch on each side confluent behind. Corneous portion of the bill apparently pale yellow, and legs probably pink, but fading to amber in the dry specimen, of which colour are also the claws. Length of wing  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 inches. Common in the wooded region of the eastern Himalaya.

C. PUNICEA, Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. xi. 462\*. (POMPADOUR WOOD PIGEON.) General colour deep vinaceous-ruddy, weaker below, and most of the feathers margined with glossy changeable green and amethystine-purple, the former colour prevailing on the neck and sides of the breast, the latter elsewhere: whole top of the head, including the occiput, whitish-gray; alars and caudals blackish; the primaries tinged externally with gray; upper and lower tail-coverts nigrescent; bill yellow at tip, its basal half blackish in the dry specimen; "irides orange with a red outer circle; feet dull lake." Length about 16 inches, of wing 8 inches, and tail 7 inches.

This handsome pigeon inhabits the hill forests of Central India, also those of Assam, and would appear to be tolerably common in the island of Ramree, Arracan. I have never seen it from the Himalaya †.

C. HODGSONII, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 16: *C. nipalensis*, Hodgson, Journ. As. Soc. v. 122 ‡. (SPECKLED WOOD

\* Type of *Alsocomus*, Tickell.

† *C. punicea*. Length 16 inches by 2 feet spread; wing  $8\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Bill greenish-yellow, with basal half livid. Iris amber-yellow in an orange-red circle. Legs and feet dull lake. The female is similar to the male, but rather smaller and duller in plumage. This species is not uncommon to the south of Singbloom, going in small parties of four or five, and always along the banks of rivers which are shaded by large forest-trees. Up and down these noble avenues, which the green shades of mingling boughs above, and the clear rippling stream below, preserve at all hours and seasons pleasantly cool, these pigeons fly, rarely taking when disturbed to the more open tracts distant from the stream. In January 1842 I killed five specimens on the Bytarnee river in Singbloom. They were feeding principally on the jamoon. These birds feed chiefly in the morning and again at evening, and during the heat of the day roost on the uppermost branches of the huge derris trees, common in that country. They are wary and difficult of approach.—T.

‡ Type of *Dendrotreton*, Hodgson.

PIGEON.) Above dark vinaceous-ruddy, with white specks on the medial coverts of the wing; head and upper part of front of neck cinereous, with a vinous tinge in some specimens; rump, upper and lower tail-coverts dusky-ash; tail ashy-black; the great alars brownish-dusky, the first three primaries having a slight whitish outer margin in some specimens; exterior wing-coverts grayish; nape, sides of neck and lower parts vinaceous-ruddy at base of feathers, margined (more broadly on the side of each feather of the breast) with vinous-gray, which increases in quantity upwards, till the surface of the plumage appears solely of this hue, while the dark vinous tint predominates more and more towards the belly; the red portion of each feather appears thus as an obtusely pointed spot upon those of the breast, and on the feathers of the neck is darker and acutely pointed, being there uniformly edged with the pale ashy margin. Bare orbital space livid; bill purplish-black; "irides hoary or gray-white; legs and feet black-green to the front, yellowish elsewhere; claws clear lively yellow." Length about 15 inches by 25 or 26 inches in alar expanse; wing 9 inches to  $9\frac{1}{4}$ . "Female," according to Mr. Hodgson, "rather less, and differing in having the bluish-gray of the head less pale and clear, and in wanting almost entirely the purplish tinge which adds so much beauty to certain parts of the plumage of the male, as especially the upper part of his back and the lower part of his belly."

"This elegant species," continues Mr. Hodgson, "is found in the woods of the valley of Nepal. It is very shy, seldom or never entering the cultivated fields for the purpose of feeding, but keeping almost always to the woods, and living upon their produce, in the shape of grass, seeds or berries." It would seem to be not uncommon near Darjeeling: and Captain Wroughton informs me, that it is also tolerably numerous about Simla and Mussooree, where it frequents the pine forests on the higher mountains, as Whartoo and the vicinity of Kotghur. They are generally seen in flocks of six or seven, which are particularly shy and difficult of approach.

*C. Hodgsonii* is nearly allied to *C. arquatrix* of Southern Africa; but is at once distinguished from that bird by its blackish bill, by the gray upon its head and neck, and by the reduced development of the nude space surrounding the orbits. Another allied African species is the *C. guinea*, Linn. (*v. trigonigera* of Wagler).

[To be continued.]